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News: States' Startup Ranking

States' Startup Ranking

- States' Startup Ranking is released by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has been conducting the States' Startup Ranking Exercise since 2018.

Objectives of such ranking

- Help **bring to fore progress made by the States/ UTs for promoting Startup ecosystem**.
- **Foster competitiveness & propel the States/ UTs to work proactively**.
- Facilitate States/ UTs to identify, learn and replicate good practices.

Classification

- States and Union Territories are classified **into 5 Categories: Best Performers, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders and Emerging Start-up Ecosystems**.

Evaluation of States

- The participants were evaluated across 7 broad Reform Areas consisting of 26 Action Points ranging from: Institutional Support, Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Access to Market, Incubation support, Funding Support and Mentorship Support to Capacity Building of Enablers.

Rankings

- Gujarat and Karnataka appeared as the Best Performers in the States category.
- Meghalaya topped among UTs and North-eastern States category.
- Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa and Telangana won the Top Performers award among states category.
- Jammu and Kashmir appeared as the Top Performer among UTs and NE states category.

News: Sweden, Finland sign protocol to join NATO, await ratification

- NATO's 30 allies signed an accession protocol for Finland and Sweden on Tuesday to allow them to join the nuclear armed alliance once allied Parliaments ratify the decision, the most significant expansion of the alliance since the mid 1990s.

- The protocol means Helsinki and Stockholm can participate in NATO meetings and have greater access to intelligence but will not be protected by the NATO defence clause that an attack on one ally is an attack against all until ratification. That is likely to take up to a year.